"An Analysis of Performance of Fish Processing Industry in Maharashtra"

Introduction

The world faces an increasing demand for food, 141 million tonnes of fish consumed in 2013, over 70 million tonnes were farmed. It means 50% of the fish we eat today comes from aquaculture. We will require an additional 50 million tonnes of fish to feed the world population by 2030. Additional fish production has to come from aquaculture as capture fisheries production is static[1]. Fish is an excellent source of nutrition 17% of global population's intake of animal protein comes from fish[2].

In India, fisheries sector has been playing an important role in the production and exports. India's seafood industry is exporting high quality seafood to nearly 100 counties of the world[3] India has world class seafood processing plants that follow all quality control measures. India has coast line of over 8,129 kms[4].

During the six decades i.e.from 1950-51 to 2012–13,India's total fishery production has increased from 0.75 million tonnes in to 9.6 million tonnes at average annual growth rate of over 4.5%. And India has become the second largest country in fishery production after China at global level[5] .

Importance of the study

Industrial sector in India is facing various problems regarding production, marketing, infrastructure facilities, finance, competition, etc. Fish processing industry is a important part of India's industrial sector. This industry also has to face various problems. This study will make some suggestion which will be helpful for progress of fish processing units and thereby betterment of fishermen as well as people living in coastal part of Maharashtra i.e. Konkan region.

Statement of the problem

Developing nation's like India have various kinds of natural resources. but they don't have technology to make process on them. Therefore developing countries have to export these resources without processing and receive low prices. Similar situation has been in fisheries industry in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra has coastline of 330 mile (530 k.) along with the Arabian sea[6]. However there are only 35 fish processing units in Maharashtra. Small numbers of fish processing units shows there must be some barriers or problems in progress of this industry related to finance,rawmaterial,marketing etc.This study will be an attempt to suggest measures to overcome these problems. To utilize marine resources at optimum level, there is need to establish more units so that fisheries products could be exported after processing. Processed fisheries products like agriculture products, last long period as well as could receive good prices.

Conceptual framework

1) Fishing Industry

A sector of the food industry engaged in the catching of fish, seals, whales, marine invertebrates, and seaweed and their processing into various types of food, medical, feed, and industrial products.[7]

2) Aquaculture

Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, shellfish and even plants. The term aquaculture refers to the cultivation of both marine and freshwater species and can range from land-based to open-ocean production.

3) Exclusive Economic Zone

The coastal water and sea bed around a country's shores, to which it claims exclusive rights for fishing, oil exploration, etc.[8]

4)Fish Processing Industry

The term fish processing refers to the processes associated with fish and fish products between the time fish are caught or harvested, and the time the final product is delivered to the customer[9]

Objectives of the study

Following are the objectives of this study

1 To Study the overall fish processing industry in Maharashtra.

2. To explore production and potential of fishing industry in Maharashtra.

3. To study export performance of fish processing industry.

4. To study capacity of employment generation of fish processing industry.

5. To examine the government policy measurements offered to fish processing Industry.

6 To find out the problems faced by fish processing Industry.

7. To Suggest measures for progress of fish processing industry.

Hypotheses

The hypotheses of this study are as follows :

1. Fish processing industry does not significantly generate direct as well as indirect employment opportunities.

2. Fish processing industry does not play a significant role in India's foreign trade.

3. Fish processing units do not run at optimum levels.

4. The Government policies are not benefiting the Fish processing industries.

Research Methodology

The present study is based on primary and secondary data.

Survey and Interview methods will be used to collect primary data about the population. Survey will be conducted by visiting personally to these fish processing units. All Fish processing units in Maharashtra are located in Mumbai, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg District near coast line. For conducting survey, prepaired interview schedule will consist of both structured and non-structured questions.

Secondary data will be collected from varous sources, such as reports,books, journals and government departments,research centers like Department of Animal Husbandery, Dairying & Fisheries,Fishery Survey of India,Maharashtra State Fishery department,Coastal Aquaculture Authority,National Fisheries Development Board,Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR),Central Institute of Fisheries Education,Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute,The Marine products Export Development Authority,Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – (FAO).

Sampling design

Research area for this study will be Fish processing units in Maharashtra state. EU approved fish processing units in Maharashtra are very few i.e.35,[10] therefore both EU approved and non approved units will be selected for the study. In order to draw the sample, a multi stage sampling technique will be used. At the first stage, Maharashtra state will be selected which has most of the processing units within four districts. i.e. Mumbai,Raigad,Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg. Therefore at the second stage, these four districts will be selected. At the third stage 5 units will be selected from each distrcit through random sampling, thus 20 units will be selected for sample.

Methods of data analysis

For the analysis of the quantitative data collected through the interview the SPSS version 20.0 package will be used. Various statistical tools such as averages and percentages,growth rate,etc. will be used and Z test will be applied for testing the various hypothesis.

Period of study

Last 10 years' i.e.2005-06 to 2014015 Secondary data related to research problem will be collected and analyzed.

Limitations of study

This study is limited to Maharashtra state only. The data which is to be discussed in this study will be restricted to only fish processing units.

The chapter scheme:

Following is the chapter scheme

Chapter I : Introduction.
Chapter II : Review of Literature
Chapter III : Economy of Maharashtra
Chapter IV : Fishing Industry in Maharshtra
Chapter V : Government Policy measures for Fish processing industry
Chapter VI : Fish processing units in Maharashtra
Chapter VII : Conclusions and Recommendations

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